

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Military Economic Development Committee  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

| A present majority of filled member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 9 members present |                                      |         |       |        |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Position  | Name                                 | Present | Phone | Absent |
| Ex-Officio Members  |                                      |         |       |        |
| Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)   | Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton        |         | x     |        |
| Vice Chair, Ex-Officio (Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity)                               | Joseph McKeown                       |         | x     |        |
|   | Salvador Garza (rep. Manny Gonzalez) |         |       |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Transportation)  | Keith Roberts                        |         | x     |        |
|   | Kirk Brown                           |         |       | x      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Natural Resources)   | Von Bandy                            |         |       | x      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of the Environmental Protection Agency)                                       | Chris Hill                           |         |       | x      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Revenue)   | Kristin Logue                        |         | x     |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Military Affairs)  | James Smith                          |         | x     |        |
| General Assembly Members  |                                      |         |       |        |
| Sen. Pres. Mem.   | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| Sen. Min. Lead. Mem.  | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| House Speaker Mem.  | Rep. Katie Stuart                    |         | x     |        |
| House Min. Lead. Mem.   | Rep. Tim Butler                      |         |       | x      |
| Public Members  |                                      |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem.   | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem.   | Ronda Sauget                         |         | X     |        |
| Pub. Mem.   | Scott Lohman                         |         | x     |        |
| Pub. Mem.   | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem.   | Zachary Mottl                        |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem.   | Christopher Kojak                    |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem.   | Frank Rezac                          |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem.   | Kevin Wiley                          |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem.   | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem.   | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| Military Veteran or Defense Industry  |                                      |         |       |        |
| MV/DI Mem.  | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| MV/DI Mem.  | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| MV/DI Mem.  | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| MV/DI Mem.  | Pending                              |         |       |        |
| Military Veteran  |                                      |         |       |        |
| Vice-Chair, Military Veteran Mem.   | William Cobetto                      |         | x     |        |

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM
- b. Roll call was taken and a quorum established
  - i. NOTE: quorum for roll was determined after the chairperson's opening remarks, but before any motions were taken)

**II. Approval of the Agenda for 8/19/21 and the Minutes from 5/31/21**

- a. **Agenda for 8/19/21**
  - i. Moved by Kimberly Huth<sup>i</sup>
  - ii. Seconded by William Cobetto
  - iii. All in favor
  - iv. No opposition
  - v. No abstentions
- b. **Minutes from 5/31/21**
  - i. Moved Dr. Ronda Sauget to approve minutes with the following edit: under the subcommittee updates section, it should read "Frank Rezac notes concern over the *potential* loss of C130's and the potential for the loss of those planes to harm the Peoria base"
  - ii. Seconded by Joseph McKeown
  - iii. All in favor
  - iv. No opposition
  - v. No abstentions

**III. Chairperson's Remarks**

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton invites Colonel Christopher Robinson, installation commander for Scott Air Force Base, to introduce himself.
  - i. Colonel Robinson thanks Lt. Governor Stratton for the invitation to speak at the meeting. He has been working in this role since July 2021. He reports that Scott Air Force Base has been working with other organizations on the settlement of Afghan refugees and repatriating American citizens still in Afghanistan.
  - ii. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks Colonel Robinson for his work and the work of military service people
- b. Lt. Governor Stratton invites Kimberly Huth to introduce General Darren James
  - i. Kimberly Huth provides a brief introduction on General Darren James
  - ii. Lt. Governor Stratton invites General Darren James to speak and thanks him for joining the meeting
    - 1. General Darren James thanks the Lt. Governor Stratton for the opportunity to speak at this meeting. He provides an overview of the recent assessment conducted at Scott Air Force Base that measured the impact of the pandemic on Scott Air Force Base and

---

<sup>i</sup> Due to administrative error, the motion to approve the agenda was not captured properly in the minutes. Kimberly Huth was not a member at the time of this meeting. The motion to approve the August 19 agenda was made on November 18, 2021 by William Cobetto and seconded by Scott Lohman.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

its findings on education criteria and license portability, updates on military housing, and on the Education Opportunity Project. From the assessment, General Darren James notes they were able to devise a quantitative criteria and build a framework to assess from K-12 education support and its applicability outside of Illinois. General Darren James states the education criteria framework will bring future DOD missions to Illinois and/or current DOD missions here based on the enhancing retainability and advancing quality of life for military families. General Darren James expressed interest in meeting with Colonel Robinson to discuss military housing areas.

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks General Darren James for his presentation and opens the floor for questions
- b. Colonel Robinson thanks General Darren James for his support and states Scott Air Force Base is already looking into military housing and ensuring affordable housing. He notes the importance of including vocational technical education opportunities because Scott Air Force Base needs those workers and so does the community. Colonel Robinson also addresses how important schools are when families make a decision where to move
- c. Lt. Governor Stratton agrees with Colonel Robinson on his remarks about people making choices based on schools and the importance of investing in education
- d. Sal Garza offers the opportunity to sit down with Colonel Robinson and General Darren James and discuss the potential for affordable housing from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and other agencies

**IV. New Business**

a. Subcommittee Updates

- i. Dr. Ronda Sauget provides an update from the Quality of Life Committee. She discusses ongoing work on collecting data for Illinois military asset mapping, thanks Governor Pritzker for signing the newest legislation related to professional licensure, and working on veteran services
  1. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks Dr. Sauget for her and the Committee for their work
- ii. Sal Garza provides an update on the Base Proximate Economic Development Committee, notes that the Committee has identified several models and are looking to establish an action plan for the state of Illinois if the state incurs another base realignment and closure. Sal Garza ends his updates by saying he will be in contact with Bobby Mannis, policy director in the Office of Lt. Governor Stratton, to increase communication and advance these items

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- iii. Bobby Mannis reports there are no major updates on the Cybersecurity and Defense Industrial Supply Chain Committee

**V. Member Updates**

- a. William Cobetto provides an update on the 182<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing in Peoria
- b. Joseph McKeown announces that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Back 2 Business Grant Program is now open and accepting applications

**VI. Public Comments**

Kimberly Huth reports that the Illinois Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve awarded St. Clair County as one of Illinois' outstanding employers of the year

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn moved by Scott Lohman at 11:10am
- b. All in favor<sup>ii</sup>
- c. No opposition
- d. No abstentions

---

<sup>ii</sup> Due to administrative error, the motion to adjourn was not captured properly in the minutes. The motion to adjourn the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Scott Lohman and seconded by William Cobetto on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.